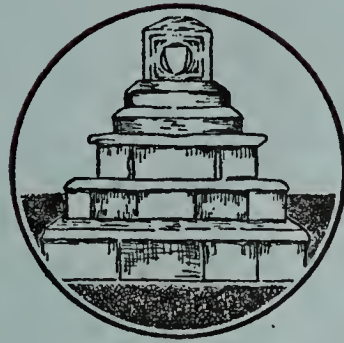


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MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957.



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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Committee

Chairman - M. Robinson

J. S. Collingwood  
T. H. Ellingham  
A. E. Morton  
H. W. Papworth  
V. R. C. Phillips  
E. Smith

Medical Officer of Health

P. Herdman, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

Miss. J. Band,

## THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1957, together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

During the latter part of the year March was almost certainly involved in the influenza epidemic which was spreading through the country - the sequence of events in March is described in the body of the report.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support, and to my colleagues on the Council's Staff, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. HERDMAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

#### General Statistics

Area in acres.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19,786
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for 1957)								13,130
Number of inhabited houses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,437
Rateable Value	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	£141,097
Amount represented by ld. rate (1956/7)								£595. 14. 6d.

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population fell by 60 to 13,130.

The main employment was either industrial on the railway, large marshallings yards being situated within the district boundary, or agricultural, the surrounding farm land being rich and fertile.

# Vital Statistics

## Table I - Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Birth rate</u> <u>March U.D.C.</u>		<u>Birth rate</u> <u>England &amp; Wales</u>	
					<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Legitimate	108	86	194	} 203	15.46	13.49	15.7	16.1
Illegitimate	4	5	9					

## Table II - Stillbirths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Stillbirth</u> <u>rate</u> <u>March U.D.C.</u>		<u>Stillbirth</u> <u>rate</u> <u>England &amp; Wales</u>	
					<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6	} 6	28.7	50.56	22.4	23.0
Illegitimate	-	-	-					

## Table III - Infantile Mortality

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Infantile</u> <u>Mortality</u> <u>rate</u> <u>March U.D.C.</u>		<u>Infantile</u> <u>Mortality</u> <u>rate</u> <u>England &amp; Wales</u>	
					<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Legitimate	6	1	7	} 7	34.48	11.23	23.0	23.8
Illegitimate	-	-	-					

The birth rate has risen from 13.49 per 1,000 population in 1956 to 15.46 in 1957 while the stillbirth rate fell from 50.56 per 1,000 births in 1956 to 28.7 in 1957. The infant mortality rate has risen from 11.23 per 1,000 live births in 1956 to 34.48 in 1957. The seven infant deaths all occurred during the neonatal period, that is before reaching the twenty-eighth day of life. No death from infantile diarrhoea was notified.

## Table IV - Deaths

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	2	10
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
Coronary disease, angina	16	5	21
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart diseases	5	11	16
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2

C/fd.

44

38

82



<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B/fd.	44	38	82
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	10	3	13
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9	16
All other accidents	3	-	3
Suicide	1	-	1
	71	54	125

The death rate for March has risen from 9.24 in 1956 to 9.52 per 1,000 population in 1957. The equivalent figures for England and Wales are 11.7 and 11.5 respectively.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	5.6
1 - 5 years	.8
6 - 15 years	.8
16 - 65 years	29.6
66 and over	63.2
	100.0%

#### Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

##### Infectious diseases notified

Measles	44
Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Scarlet Fever	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1
Non - Pulmonary	1
	55

##### Influenza

The first intimation of the presence of influenza came in August when it was reported that some children from a children's home had returned not fully recovered, from a holiday camp where an outbreak of influenza had occurred. The home was put into voluntary quarantine for one week and there was no evidence of any spread from the home into the town. During the early part of September there were indications that the epidemic which had already affected neighbouring parts of the country was spreading into March.

An indication of the amount of illness in the town each week is obtained from the number of new claims for sickness benefit and the number of children absent from school. When these numbers rise, one or other of the general practitioners is often able to furnish me with information as to the diagnosis of any prevailing disease. This happened during September and when consulted the doctors confirmed that influenza was being diagnosed with increasing frequency amongst their patients. The peak was reached probably during the middle of October and conditions returned to normal by the third week in November.

Influenza is not a notifiable disease and while one death was recorded the number of cases which occurred is not known.

#### Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation procedures against diphtheria, small-pox, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and tetanus were carried out either by doctors employed by the County Council or by general practitioners. Ninety-five children were immunised against diphtheria and 171 older children received an additional injection to increase their immunity.

#### Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during 1957.

#### National Assistance Act

No action was taken under the above Act during 1957.





THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1957:-

Public Health Act. Nuisances)									
Housing Act. Disrepair)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	336
Ashes accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Accumulations	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Cesspools	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Slaughterhouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	833
Knackers yards	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Verminous premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Rats and mice (including sewers)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	71
Moveable dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Stables premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Water supplies	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Food Hygiene.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
General food premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Fried fish shops and stalls.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
Dairies.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26
Ice cream premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Shops Act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Infectious diseases	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Meat shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30
Overcrowding.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sanitary accommodation.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Interviews	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	261
Drainage	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	83
Common Lodging House	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Pet Animals Act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
									1,840

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under Public Health and Housing Acts.

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Outstanding at the end of 1957
<u>Drains</u>			
Cesspools	6	6	-
Defective drainage - dykes	3	1	2
Blocked drains	13	13	-
<u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>			
Defective pail closet	1	1	-
<u>Verminous Infestation</u>			
Cockroaches	1	1	-
Rats and mice	8	7	1
Fleas	1	1	-
C/fd.	33	30	3

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Outstanding at the end of 1957
E/fd.	33	30	3
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective roof	3	3	-
" stove	2	1	1
" floorboards	7	5	2
" gutters	2	2	-
" brickwork	1	1	-
" plasterwork	3	2	1
" chimney	2	1	1
" door step	1	1	-
" windows	1	1	-
Water under floorboards	1	-	1
Accumulations	2	2	-
Insufficient dustbins	1	1	-
	59	50	9

Table of Notices served during 1957

	Served during 1957	Complied with by 31.12.57
Public Health and Housing Acts.		
Verbal	40	32
Letter	11	11
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.		
Verbal	7	7
Letter	1	-
	59	50

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1957, 1 Undertaking was accepted for carrying out repairs, 2 Demolition Orders were made and 41 Closing Orders were also made. Later in the year 10 Closing Orders were subsequently converted into Demolition Orders. Five houses were overcrowded and 4 of these families were rehoused by the Council. In the fifth case some members of the family left the house and thus reduced the overcrowding.

The Rent Act of 1957 became operative on the 1st September, 1957 and by the end of the year 13 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received. One application was refused.

DRAINAGE

Towards the end of 1957 work commenced on the subsidiary sewers and we look forward to the completion of the scheme when it is hoped that many vaults and pail closets will be converted to water closets.



## WATER SUPPLY

Extensions to the water mains were still being carried out during 1957 and where mains have been laid many new connections have been made to properties. It is tentatively hoped that the whole of the water schemes will be completed in the near future and many more families will benefit.

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- (3) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.
- (4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion supplied from the public water mains. -  
(a) direct to house - 88%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 21 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings compared with 22 for the previous year. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

## RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present 5 premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by Inspector Sherwood of the R.S.P.C.A. who has been appointed as Honorary Inspector and myself.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The number of animals killed during the year at the four slaughterhouses is as follows:- 24 cows, 12 calves, 840 other bovines, 1487 sheep, 3644 pigs and 134 goats giving a total of 6141. In order to inspect these animals a total of 833 visits were required to the four slaughterhouses and this figure includes 109 evening and week-end visits.

Mention must be made here of the consideration received from the slaughtermen and butchers whose co-operation does facilitate the easier working of a system of meat inspection.

I have been acting on behalf of the Ministry of Food under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the certification of pigs on a deadweight basis and it is interesting to note that during 1957 some 463 pigs were weighed and 249 certificates issued.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:-  
 1 cow, 3 other bovines, 2 calves, 13 pigs and 1 goat,  
 total 20 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts  
 of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned  
 up to 2 tons 15 cwts. 5 lbs. which is a decrease on the 1956  
 figure when the total was 4 tons 15 cwts. 3 quarters 22 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned  
from January 1st, 1957 to December 31st, 1957

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	840	24	12	1487	3644	-
Number Inspected	840	24	12	1487	3644	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	1	1	-	13	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	26	4	-	-	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	3.21	20.85	8.33	-	.85	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	59	-	-	-	29	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	7.26	-	8.33	-	.79	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-



## OTHER FOODS

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(1) <u>Miscellaneous</u>		<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Smoked Cod		26	-
Plaice		4	8
Lamb		10	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		41	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(2) <u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>No. of tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Ox Tongue	1	6	-
Bacon	2	10	6
Corned Beef	4	18	12
Ham	17	139	13
Luncheon Meat	3	4	12
Pilchards	1		14
Crab	1		7½
Fruit	15	22	4
Peas	1	1	3½
Tomatoes	1		14
Milk	4	8	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>
50		263	13
		<hr/>	<hr/>

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued 6 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk, 6 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 4 Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results as shown:-

### Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Satisfied Phosphatase Test	Failed Both Tests
14	8	14	-

The Methylene Blue Test was not carried out on 6 of the above samples because the atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F.



## Tuberculin Tested Milk

No. of Samples Taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
7.	7	-

Two samples of Sterilised Milk were taken, both satisfied the Turbidity Test.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

In Circular 1/54 the Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	9
Grocery	35
Butchers	19
Fish Shops	12
Bakehouses	5
Confectionery	12
Cafes	3

95

In addition there are some 43 licensed premises including Clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises Registered for Sale of Ice Cream.	33
" " " Preparation of Meat	
" " " Pies and Sausages.	18
" " " sale of Fish & Chips.	11

See page 10 for Milk Licences issued.

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary.  
Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 6.
- (4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.  
No clean food guilds have been established.
- (5) the method of disposal of condemned food.  
Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by contractors for processing.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.  
The lists on page 10 show the total weight of food condemned.
- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.  
Fifteen samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.  
The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

---

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
15	-	-	-	15

---

It will be observed that all of these samples were classified Grade 1. At the end of the year 33 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of iced lollies were taken during 1957.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.  
After the inauguration of the Food Hygiene Regulations, which became operative in 1956 when all the food shops were visited, re-inspections are being made from time to time which also cover other Acts and Orders.

#### RATS AND MICE

Once again comparatively few complaints were received during 1957 of infestation by rats and mice. The refuse dumps are treated regularly and have been kept well under control, evidence of infestation being generally small. The sewers are treated twice a year in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. The Agricultural Executive Committee are known to have many contracts for farms in this area.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 50 factories on the Council's register and 15 visits were made to them during 1957.

Form 572 has been completed and forwarded as requested in advance of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

Public Health Inspector.

9th June, 1958.





